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December 9, 2008

EU ministers, Solana welcome Eulex deployment

KosovoCompromise Staff

EU foreign ministers and the High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana welcomed the beginning of the Eulex mandate and expressed hope that it would have smooth functioning.

"We welcomed the deployment of Eulex", French Foreign Minister Bernard Kounchner said following the meeting of the ministers in Brussels on Monday.

"I am very happy to say that EULEX will today start its work throughout Kosovo. This mission, which is our biggest so far, is critical for stability and development of Kosovo and the region", Solana told the Tanjug news agency in an interview on Tuesday.

"It is of course very important that the UN Security Council approved EULEX. I am also grateful for the support of the Serbian Government, in particular for the leadership of President Boris Tadic, and I trust Serbia will do what it can to ensure a smooth functioning of EULEX", he said.

"At the same time, we know that EULEX will operate in a challenging environment. I am convinced that my Head of Mission, Yves de Kermabon, will manage EULEX wisely and will be able to deal with challenges as they come up. He has my full support", the High Representative said.